

Hot property Prize winners

By Caroline Thorpe

► **Chalet, St Lawrence Estate, Charlevoix, Québec, Canada C\$1.89m**

Where On a promontory 500m above the St Lawrence River and close to Le Massif de Charlevoix — the highest vertical drop east of the Canadian Rockies. It is 100km from Québec City Jean Lesage international airport.

What A striking, T-shaped chalet with floor-to-ceiling windows. Anchored into the rock using an earthquake-resistant steel structure, there are three bedrooms and the open-plan living areas are on the top floor to maximise views.

Why The bold design, by Canadian architects Bourgeois Lechasseur, was judged "audacious" and awarded the 2014 Prix Nobilis for architecture.

Who Christies International Real Estate, christiesrealestate.com, tel: +1 418 998 3219



► **The Honeycomb House, Zhongzheng, Taipei City, Taiwan, T\$388m (\$9.92m)**

Where On a quiet residential street in Zhongzheng, a largely administrative district in central Taipei. Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport is 30km to the west.

What A five-bedroom house set over six floors and with an exterior

patterned like honeycomb. It has a home theatre, rooftop garden and parking for three cars.

Why In 2016 the house won a gold A'Design Award for architecture, design and structure. The global competition aims to reward "quality and perfection".

Who Taiwan Sotheby's International Realty, sothebysrealty.com, tel: +886 939 968 611



▲ **Casa Nicola, Valdina, Sicily, Italy €4.5m**

Where Valdina, a medieval village on the Tyrrhenian coast in north-east Sicily, overlooking the bay of

Milazzo and the Aeolian Islands. Catania Fontanarossa airport is two hours away by car.

What An asymmetrical, three-bedroom villa built in 2005. The outer walls are clad in planks of wood which enhance air circulation. The five-acre plot includes a split-level pool that mimics the house design and 4,500 fruit trees.

Why The Urban Future Organisation-designed property has won several awards including the 2006 MOHD award for architecture and two Quadranti d'Architettura prizes that celebrate contemporary Sicilian designs.

Who Engel & Völkers, engelvoelkers.com, tel: +39 0942 62 00 78



▲ 65 St Nicholas Road, Darien, Connecticut, US \$5.5m

Where On a 2.4-acre plot in Darien, 36 miles north-west of Manhattan. It's an hour from JFK airport by car.
What A mid-century-inspired

contemporary home formed of mahogany and bluestone sections. The five-bedroom house is eco-friendly, with solar power, bio-fuel boilers and rainwater recycling. **Why** Judges called it "a modernist-inspired masterpiece" on awarding the 2007 Connecticut Cottages and Gardens Innovation in Design Award for architecture. Designer Amanda Martocchio also won an Emerging Architectural Firm Award from the American Institute of Architects in 2011. **Who** Houlihan Lawrence, houlihanlawrence.com, tel: +1 203 655 8238



▲ Villa Kratir, Antiparos, Greece, €3.9m

Where On Antiparos in the Cyclades archipelago of the Aegean Sea, 180km south-west of Athens. Ferries depart from Antiparos to Paros, where there is an airport with mainland flights. **What** A 6,000 sqft seven-bedroom villa on a hillside. It includes staff

quarters, shaded verandas and an infinity pool. **Why** The property — conceived by Deca Architecture as an update on the Cycladic style — won a commendation in the 2004 award for Emerging Architecture award for up-and-coming architects. **Who** Christies International Real Estate, christiesrealestate.com, tel: +30 210 364 3112



▲ Ashberg House, Chelsea, London, UK £24.5m

Where The Boltons, a conservation area in London's Chelsea. The property is two miles from the London Heliport. **What** Named after the famous 102.48 carat Ashberg Diamond, the six-bedroom house is newly built and set over five floors. It has a lift, indoor pool and two roof terraces. **Why** The property, which features glass, black basalt and bronze, won best luxury residence in London at the 2017 International Design and Architecture Awards. **Who** Knight Frank, knightfrank.com, tel: +44 20 7349 4300



▲ Villa Ottolenghi, Monferrato, Italy, €16m

Where On a hillside close to Acqui Terzi, a town in the Piedmont region of north-west Italy. Genoa Airport is about 70 minutes' drive. **What** A sprawling property with several buildings including a 3,500 sq metre villa with 20 bedrooms and a winery. There are two pools, a tennis court and a vineyard. **Why** The five-acre grounds took the "best development of a historic park or garden in Europe" title at the 2011 European Garden Awards. Designed by landscape gardener Pietro Porcinai, they feature sculptures by artists such as Arturo Martini and Fortunato Depero. **Who** Italy Sotheby's International Realty, italy-sothebysrealty.com, tel: +39 01 11 1947 1640